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WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES AND
COORDINATION
Nineteenth session
New York, 10-13 February 1998
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Proposals for the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

The present note contains proposals for the provisional agenda and documentation of the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission (paras. 3 and 4); a note on the availability of document outlines (para. 5); and points for discussion by the Working Group (para. 6).

The annex contains proposed outlines for documents requested for the above-mentioned session, arranged by agenda item. A draft table of contents for each document is provided, in most cases accompanied by notes giving more details and, where appropriate, raising issues for consideration by the Working Group.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note has been prepared in order to assist the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination in reviewing, at its nineteenth session, the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission. The Commission had recommended to the Economic and Social Council that its thirtieth session be held in New York from 1 to 5 March 1999. The Council has approved that recommendation, and the session is scheduled in the calendar of conferences for the above-mentioned dates.

2. The Commission requested the Working Group to finalize, at its nineteenth session, the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirtieth session,[1] as set out in the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session[2] and approved by the Council at its substantive session of 1997.

II. PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

3. Having reviewed the provisional agenda and documentation as approved by the Council, the United Nations Statistics Division proposes to add the following items and documentation:

(a) "United Nations Economic and Social Information System": at its twenty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission endorsed preparation of a technical publication on United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS) standards for metadata as part of the programme of work of the Division for the biennium 1998-1999. The Secretariat will prepare a progress report on that work for the thirtieth session of the Commission, as requested by the Commission;

(b) "Demographic, social and migration statistics": the Secretariat wishes to inform the Commission of progress in this broad area of statistics and to present draft revised principles and recommendations for vital statistics and civil registration systems.

4. In addition, following an initiative of the Task Force on Service Statistics (see E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.2, annex II, para. 2 (v)), the Secretariat proposes that under agenda item 8, "Service statistics", a draft manual on trade in services statistics be submitted to the Commission for adoption.

III. AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENT OUTLINES

5. Available document outlines are contained in the annex; the remainder will be issued as addenda to the present note as they become available.

IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

6. The Working Group may wish to finalize the provisional agenda and documentation, including document outlines, for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 4 (E/1997/24), para. 102 (a)).

[2] Ibid., chap. I A.

Annex

DOCUMENT OUTLINES[a] FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION, ARRANGED BY AGENDA ITEM

Agenda as approved by the Economic and Social Council

1. Election of officers

Document requested

None

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documents requested

Provisional agenda and annotations

Organization of the work of the session

State of preparation of documentation for the session

Proposed outlines

The provisional agenda will be finalized by the Working Group at its present session, based on the agenda proposed by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session, in 1997, and approved by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997. The United Nations Statistics Division will prepare annotations that will provide background for each agenda item and will indicate what actions the Commission may wish to take. A programme of work will be prepared to assist the Commission in completing its work within the week assigned for the session. A report on the availability of documentation for the session will also be issued.

3. International trade statistics

Document requested

Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics

Proposed outline

I. Compiler's Manual

II. Customs areas of the world

III. Index numbers of international trade: technical information

IV. Provision of international trade statistics by countries to the United Nations Statistics Division in terms of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Cooling System

V. Revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics

VI. Other matters

A. Use by the United Nations Statistics Division of monthly data compiled by the International Monetary Fund

B. Differences between annual figures in the commodity-by-partner trade database and in the United Nations Statistics Division/International Monetary Fund database of aggregate imports and exports

C. Arrangements among the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Statistics Division for detailed trade data

D. Commodity-by-partner trade database: status, plans and user needs

E. Correlations between classifications used in trade

F. Quarterly data in the commodity-by-partner trade database

G. Trade in military goods

H. National reporting practices

The Task Force will provide updated information on work accomplished and plans on each of the above elements of its work.

4. International economic and social classifications

Document requested

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications[b]

5. Statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences

Documents requested

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation and use of the Minimum National Social Data Set[b]

Report on the seminar on poverty statistics, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with other regional commissions[b]

6. Aspects of economic statistics

Document requested

Reports of the groups carrying out work on various aspects of economic statistics, including evaluation of the International Comparison Programme

Proposed outline

The various groups whose terms of reference were approved by the Statistical Commission in 1997 will present progress reports on the work undertaken in their areas. The groups will also outline any further activities that are planned.

The activities and proposed terms of reference of other groups or organizers of important events will also be included.

The United Nations Statistics Division will report on how it has contributed to making the results of the work of the city groups more widely available.

An evaluation of the International Comparison Programme will be presented, as requested by the Commission.

7. Environment statistics

Document requested

Report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics

Proposed outline

I. Compilation of environmental indicators

II. Revision of the system of integrated environmental and economic accounting

III. Future work

Section I will describe the collaboration of the Task Force in the international compilation of environmental indicators, through the sharing of existing data and assisting in the definition and description of indicators included in the survey of environmental indicators conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division.

Section II will describe possible collaboration of the Task Force with the United Nations Statistics Division and the London Group on Environmental Accounting in the revision of the System of Int· ·ated Environmental and Economic Accounting.

8. Service statistics

Documents requested

Report of the Task Force on Service Statistics (see also para. 4 above)[b]

Draft manual on trade in services statistics[b]

9. National accounts

Documents requested

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Proposed outline

I. A proposed process for updating the system of national accounts, 1993

II. Integrated presentation of the work programme of the intersecretariat working group on national accounts

III. Analysis of country-by-country milestone assessments

Section I will propose a mechanism for updating the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA) in order to maintain its continued relevance. A typology of amendments, containing appropriate processes for handling proposed amendments, will be suggested.

Section II will present an integrated manner and in the format previously used for the Statistical Commission the work programme of the member agencies of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, covering publications, meetings and seminars, as well as research activities.

Section III will give a country-by-country assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA, using the milestones approved by the Statistical Commission. A brief analysis of the situation and observed changes therein will be included.

Report of the Secretary-General on the draft classification of individual consumption by purpose, draft classification of the functions of government, draft classification of the purposes of the non-profit institutions serving households and draft classification of outlays of producers by purpose

Proposed outline

The report will provide background information on the development of each classification.

Draft classification of individual consumption by purpose

Draft classification of the functions of government

Draft classification of the purposes of the non-profit institutions serving households

Draft classification of outlays of producers by purpose

Proposed outlines

The complete text of each draft classification will be available.

10. Finance statistics

Document requested

Report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

Proposed outline

The Task Force will report on progress made in specialized statistical systems related to finance statistics. In particular, the report will focus on the relationship between those specialized statistical systems and the 1993 SNA. In accordance with the amended terms of reference of the Task Force, the work programmes of international organizations in the area of finance statistics will also be presented.

11. Technical cooperation in statistics

Document requested

Report on the initiative to develop best practices and other issues

Proposed outline

The outline will be developed in the course of discussion by the Working Group of item 10 of its provisional agenda, 'Technical cooperation in statistics' (see E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.1).

12. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes

Documents requested

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session (New York 10-13 February 1998)

Proposed outline

The report will contain the decision and recommendations made by the Working Group at its nineteenth session on each item of its agenda.

Reports of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-first session (Geneva, 16-18 September 1997) and thirty-second session (New York, 7-9 June 1998)

Proposed outlines

The reports will contain the decisions and recommendations made by the Subcommittee at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions on the following issues, among others:

(a) Classification of statistics and statistical activities;

(b) Environment statistics;

(c) Matters arising from the work of the Statistical Commission and its working group, and reporting on international statistical activities to the statistical commission and its working group;

(d) Issues related to the work of the task forces;

(e) Some critical problems in economic statistics and the role of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in ad hoc Voorburg-type groups;

(f) Technical cooperation in statistics;

(g) Coordination of the follow-up to the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences;

(h) Coordination of statistical data-collection activities;

(i) United Nations economic and social information system;

(j) ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections;

(k) Functioning of the Subcommittee: Chairmanship and Bureau of the Subcommittee.

13. Programme questions and related matters

Document requested

Draft programme of work of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 2000-2001: proposals concerning the medium-term plan for statistics

Proposed outline

I. Objectives of the statistics subprogramme

II. Activities and outputs envisaged and resource requirements of the statistics subprogramme

The introduction will include any further developments in the medium-term plan that forms the basis of the work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium (the Statistical Commission reviewed the draft medium-term plan for 1998-2001 at its twenty-eighth session, in 1995, and at its twenty-ninth session in 1997, had before it the medium-term plan as adopted by the General Assembly in December 1996).

Section II will focus on the major objectives of the statistics subprogramme, which will be: (a) to improve the usefulness and accessibility of international economic and social data to policy makers, both international and national; (b) to implement the 1993 SNA; (c) to improve the international community's ability to measure the environmental impact of human activity and expenditures related to the environment; and (d) to develop and promote the use of consistent and integrated sets of social statistics, develop social indicators and enhance analytical capabilities in this area, and continue work on the coordination and development of international statistical standards across a broad spectrum of statistics.

Section III will then provide a detailed account of the different activities and outputs of the biennium. Analysis of the resource requirements of the United Nations Statistics Division to realize the proposed programme will also be provided.

14. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission

A draft provisional agenda will be prepared based on decisions of the Commission during the session.

15. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session

A draft set of decisions made by the Commission during the session will be prepared.

Proposed additions to the agenda

United Nations Economic and Social Information System

Document requested

Development of United Nations Economic and Social Information Systems standards for data structure and metadata in international data exchange and dissemination

Proposed outline

I. Need for data structure and metadata standards in international data exchange and dissemination

II. Selected national experience

III. Contents of standards and guidelines on data structure and metadata being developed for the United Nations Economic and Social Information System

IV. Coordination of United Nations Economic and Social Information System standards and guidelines with the Economic Commission for Europe/Conference of European Statisticians work programmes on electronic data interchange and meta-information systems, and the electronic data dissemination programmes of United Nations agencies, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

V. Timetable and objectives of the United Nations Economic and Social Information System project on metadata and data structure standards and guidelines

Demographic, social and migration statistics

Documents proposed

Progress report on demographic, housing, social and gender statistics, including draft recommendations for vital statistics and civil registration systems[b]

Draft recommendations on vital statistics and civil registration systems[b]

Note: Although not indicated in the outlines, an introduction and points for discussion or proposed action by the Commission will be included in each document.

Notes

[a] Where chapter headings are considered sufficiently explanatory, additional notes are not provided.

[b] Outline to be issued as an addendum to the present note.

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Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination
Nineteenth session
New York, 10-13 February 1998
Agenda items 4-8 and 10-13*

Implementation of the system of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA)

Work of the Inter-Agency Task Forces

Some critical problems in economic statistics

Demographic, social and migration statistics

Statistical implications of the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences

Technical cooperation in statistics

Coordination of statistical data-collection activities

Information on the statistical activities of the international organizations

Role and functioning of the Statistical Commission

Actions and decisions taken by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at its thirty-first session

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the actions and decisions taken by the Subcommittee at its thirty-first session (Geneva, 16-18 September 1997), and is made available in response to the request of the Working Group at its seventeenth session (E/CN.3/1995/2, para. 34).

* E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.1.

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I. Introduction

1. The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities held its thirty-first session at Geneva from 16 to 18 September 1997. Actions and decisions taken at the session are listed below; the list of participants is contained in the annex.

II. Matters arising from the thirtieth session of the Subcommittee

Policy on provision of copies to other organizations of methodological publications in more than one language, where available

2. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of the Bureau that each organization should also provide one free copy of any available language version of their statistical methodological publications to other members of the Subcommittee on request (see SA/1997/2, para. 2), and requested organizations to take steps so that other organizations could become aware of the availability of new methodological publications, for example by placing release information on their home pages.

Further development of the coordination tools and how to make them available

3. The Subcommittee endorsed the decision of the Bureau to retain the inventory of statistical data-collection activities (a machine-readable database) but not to spend resources on further updating or further developing it or the other coordination tools (the list of classifications used in statistics, the inventory of computerized statistical databases and the annotated list of methodological publications). Instead, the Bureau decided it was preferable to spend resources on the development of an integrated presentation of the work programmes of the members of the Subcommittee, which was expected to be a significant coordination tool itself (see SA/1997/3, para. 3).

Coordination issues arising from implementation of the International Monetary Fund Special Data Dissemination Standard, development of the Fund's General Data Dissemination System, and the Common Code of Statistical Practice in the United Nations system

4. The Subcommittee noted the Bureau's conclusion that in those areas there were no coordination issues to be considered by the ACC Subcommittee at large (see SA/1997/3, para. 5). The Subcommittee further noted that the Bureau had held its meeting prior to additional information becoming available about the International Monetary Funds' General Data Dissemination System. The Subcommittee agreed that although no coordination issues needed to be considered at the thirty-first session, the Subcommittee would address such issues if they arose in the future.

2000 Population and Housing Census Programme

5. The Subcommittee noted that the provisional principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.1) had been approved by the Statistical Commission,[1] had been amended by the United Nations Statistics Division as directed by the Statistical Commission, and had been submitted for editing, translation and printing. The Subcommittee also noted that the International Labour Organization (ILO) was completing a separate publication on economic characteristics of the population.

Migration statistics

6. The Subcommittee noted that the draft revised recommendations on statistics of internal migration (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1) had been approved by the Statistical Commission[2] and were being amended by the United Nations Statistics Division as directed by the Commission.

Communication by e-mail

7. The Subcommittee agreed that the electronic distribution of documents for the thirty-first session by e-mail, as well as the installation of session documents on a special ACC Subcommittee World Wide Web home page, had been a successful experiment and had met the needs of the Subcommittee in respect of document distribution; the Subcommittee agreed that that practice should be continued for future meetings.

General issues related to the work of the task forces

8. The Subcommittee noted that the Statistical Commission had reviewed a report on assessment of the work of the inter-agency task forces established by the Statistical Commission in relation to their mandates (E/CN.3/1997/24 and Corr.1), and had established a group to explore new approaches to the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission.[3] The Subcommittee also noted that the draft report of that group, including observations on the functioning of the task forces, would be considered under the item "Matters arising from the work of the Statistical Commission and its Working Group: other matters" (see para. 23 below).

Statistical support for policy analysis issues at the international level

9. The Subcommittee noted that the basic issue of concern was the coordination of collection of statistical data from countries. The Subcommittee agreed to the proposal that the United Nations Statistics Division (a) should await responses from countries to an invitation, extended by the Chairman of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, requesting countries to report on actual cases of duplication that they had experienced, and (b) should subsequently prepare a report for the Subcommittee along the lines specified by the Subcommittee at its thirtieth session (see ACC/1996/9, para. 29).

World statistics day

10. The Subcommittee noted that the Statistical Commission (a) had expressed support for the holding of national and regional statistical days in those countries and regions that already held such days, and had encouraged the holding of national statistical days in any countries that might wish to establish such days, and (b) had found no consensus in favour of holding a world statistics day.[4]

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

11. The Subcommittee noted that the agenda and documentation had been finalized to reflect inputs from members of the Subcommittee.

III. Technical cooperation

12. The Subcommittee noted that the informal group established by the Statistical Commission to follow up a proposal on holding a seminar/symposium on good practices related to technical cooperation[5] had met twice. The group would prepare a report on general good practices in technical cooperation in statistics, which would be (a) circulated to central statistical organizations and regional organizations, (b) discussed informally in a wide range of forums, and (c) submitted to the Statistical Commission's Working Group in February 1998.

IV. Issues related to the work of the task forces

Task Force on International Trade Statistics

13. The Subcommittee welcomed the report of the Task Force, noted its achievements, and requested it to investigate the issue of inconsistency between the reported imports and reported exports of trading partners.

Task Force on Environment Statistics

14. The Subcommittee considered that there was a special need for coordination in this area of statistics, and requested the Bureau to prepare for a session on this topic at the thirty-second session of the Subcommittee.

Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

15. The Subcommittee recognized the concern of the regional commissions that countries would have difficulty with the new national accounts data questionnaire to be implemented in 1999, and would look to the regional commissions for help. The Subcommittee noted that the United Nations Statistics Division would work with the regional commissions to help them prepare to deal with that development.

Task Force on Finance Statistics

16. The Subcommittee endorsed the extension of the terms of reference, as proposed by the Task Force in response to a request of the Statistical Commission[6] to include reporting, on a periodic basis, on the work programmes of international organizations—including, as appropriate, regional organizations—as they related to the development and maintenance of methodologies and compilation guides, the compilation, processing and dissemination of such material, and technical assistance and cooperation in the field of finance statistics (see SA/1997/8/Add.3, para. 13). The Subcommittee agreed that that extension would be subject to review at a later stage if work programmes were to be reported on through a different process, such as the planned integrated presentation of work programmes.

Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics

17. The Subcommittee noted that the Statistical Commission had agreed that the Task Force had largely accomplished its goals and should be discontinued.[7] However, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was continuing its commitment to investigate definitions of statistical units used by its member countries, and would report thereon to the Statistical Commission's Working Group.

Task Force on Services Statistics

18. The Subcommittee noted the progress of work on the manual on trade in services statistics, and endorsed the Task Force's proposal to change its name to the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (see SA/1997/8/Add.5, para. 7) so as to more accurately reflect its current mandate, which focused on problems related to the collection of data on international trade in services.

V. The Statistics part of the ACC Programme Classification

19. The subcommittee concluded that additional attentions should be directed to defining the purpose(s) to be served by such a classification since such definition would influence its structure and details; in particular, the requirements to be established for the proposed integrated presentation of work programmes (see para. 25 below) would be important. The Subcommittee requested organizations to send comments on a note by the ILO on the statistics part of the ACC Programme Classification (SA/1997/5) to the ILO, and requested the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the ILO and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to prepare a revised report for the thirty-second session of the Subcommittee based on any such comments as well as on comments made during the discussion.

VI. Coordination of the follow-up to the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences, including the coordination mechanisms that ACC has put in place

20. The Subcommittee welcomed (a) the work being done on promotion and implementation of the Minimum National Social Data Set (MNSDS), as well as the support that individual organizations were giving it in their work; (b) the ongoing work on poverty statistics and its dissemination on the World Wide Web pages of the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografica y Estadisticos (IBGE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); (c) the work at OECD on the development of a core set of indicators for monitoring progress towards widely shared development goals; and (d) proposals on a core set of indicators associated with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Subcommittee invited its members to provide the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with any comments on the core set of UNDAF indicators.

21. The Subcommittee reviewed a request from the United Nations Statistics Division to provide data for inclusion in an inventory of all indicators produced in the United Nations system, which the ACC Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development had requested the Division to develop. Some members of the Subcommittee considered that such an inventory could be useful. However, the Subcommittee (a) expressed doubts that the inventory would be used; (b) expressed concerns about several definitional aspects of what should be included and the input required to set up the initial inventory and to maintain it; and (c) requested the Division to investigate how the existing inventory of statistical data collection activities, if well developed and maintained, might be used to meet the perceived needs in place of the proposed new inventory.

VII. Some critical problems in economic statistics and the role of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in ad hoc Voorburg-type groups

22. The Subcommittee discussed aspects of the city groups, including the various ways in which they choose to function, how they determined their memberships and how they adopted their work programmes. The Subcommittee welcomed the steps that the United Nations Statistics Division had taken to expand knowledge at the national level of the existence and functioning of the groups. The Subcommittee agreed that members of the Subcommittee had a role to play within the city groups, particularly to reflect the views of non-participating countries.

VIII. Matters arising from the work of the Statistical Commission and its Working Group: other matters

23. The Subcommittee noted the work on international economic and social classifications. It also took note of a draft report entitled "Begeer and beyond: some additional steps towards more effective international statistical cooperation" which had been prepared by an informal group established by the Statistical Commission. The Subcommittee decided that it did not need to take a position in relation to the draft report, but invited members to send any comments that they might have directly to the Convener of the group.

IX. Functioning of the Subcommittee

24. The Subcommittee considered a brief proposal, put forward by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) in a letter dated 8 September 1997 to the Chairman of the Subcommittee, that since the concept of the Subcommittee's Bureau had been established, it could fulfil the requirements of the global system, supplemented by short "plenary" sessions held at the same time as Statistical Commission/Working Group meetings and permanent contact by e-mail among Subcommittee members. The Subcommittee considered that the reforms that it had instituted in recent years had resulted in improved coordination, more effective and efficient meetings, and improved attention to the business of the Subcommittee in-between sessions by the Bureau. Although the specific brief proposal was not supported, the Subcommittee agreed that it should make its agenda/meetings more substantive on major issues when they arose, and that the Bureau should contribute to that goal by making appropriate preparations for discussions. The Subcommittee recalled that that was its intention in relation to the consideration of environment statistics at its thirty-second session.

X. Information on statistical programmes

25. The Subcommittee considered a proposal that had been developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Statistics Division to meet a request by the Statistical Commission for information on the work programmes in statistics of the international organizations,[8] particularly on activities and meetings. The proposal was presented, in part, through an on-line demonstration of access to a Statistics Division World Wide Web home page that had been developed for that purpose. The Subcommittee recognized the value of that kind of product for guiding the Statistical Commission and other interested parties into the statistical activities and meetings of the international organizations, but some members expressed reluctance to commit resources to input the data required for that kind of reporting, particularly in cases where they might have provided the same or similar data in another format for other reporting purposes. However, there was a general consensus to participate if a pilot study showed that it could be done with reasonable resource input. Consequently, the Subcommittee agreed that the proposal should be further developed through a pilot effort, and requested the United

Nations Statistics Division, the ILO, IMF and the World Bank to participate.

XI. United Nations Economic and Social Information System

26. The Subcommittee took note of the intentions of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning standards for data structure and meta-data in international data exchange and dissemination in the context of the United Nations Economic and Social Information System.

XII. ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections

27. The Subcommittee on Statistical Activities endorsed the decision of the Bureau in which the Bureau welcomed the decision of the Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections (SCDEP) to invite as observers organizations whose work was relevant to that of SCDEP, and noted that Eurostat and the International Organization for Migration would be invited to attend the twentieth session of SCDEP in 1998 (see SA/1997/3, para. 8).

XIII. Chairmanship and the Bureau of the Subcommittee

28. The Subcommittee:

(a) Elected G. Jones of UNICEF as Chairman of the Subcommittee, with effect from the beginning of the thirty-second session in 1998;

(b) Decided that immediately following the thirty-first session, the Bureau should comprise:

H. Habermann (United Nations Statistics Division ; ex officio) (Term: permanent)

J.-M. Leger (WTO)(Term ends 1999)[9]

F. Mehran (ILO; Chairman)(Term ends 1998)

A. Flatt (ESCAP) (Term ends 1998)

G. Jones (UNICEF; Chairman elect) (Term ends 2000)

(c) Requested that R. Roberts of the United Nations Statistics Division continue to serve as Secretary of both the Subcommittee and the Bureau.

XIV. Dates, venue and agenda of the thirty-second session

29. The Subcommittee recommended that its thirty-second session be held from 16 to 18 June 1998 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and requested the Bureau to develop a proposal for the Subcommittee in relation to the timing and venues of future meetings. The provisional agenda—subject to review and finalization by the Bureau—was agreed as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the report of the thirty-first session.
3. Matters arising from the thirty-first session of the Subcommittee (reports of the Bureau on its inter-sessional meetings; note by the Secretariat on follow-up to the thirty-first session).
4. Classification of statistics and statistical activities (report by ESCAP, the ILO and ISI).
5. Environment statistics (report by the Task Force on Environment Statistics).
6. Reporting on international statistical activities to the Statistical Commission (report by the United Nations Statistics Division, the ILO, IMF and the World Bank).
7. Issues related to the work of the task forces (reports by the task forces).
8. Coordination of the follow-up to the statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences (report by the United Nations Statistics Division).
9. Coordination of statistical data-collection activities (report by the United Nations Statistics Division).
10. Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission and its Working Group (report by the United Nations Statistics Division).
11. ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.
12. Bureau of the Subcommittee.
13. Dates, venue and agenda of the thirty-third session of the Subcommittee.

XV. Special topic: preparing budget proposals related to statistical activities in the United Nations system

30. The Subcommittee welcomed a presentation on the subject made by Mr. P. Leslie, Secretary of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions), emphasizing budgetary processes in the face of diminishing resources. A lively question-and-answer and discussion session followed. The Chairman, on behalf of the Subcommittee, thanked Mr. Leslie, concluding that it had been a very useful coverage of a topical matter, one of great interest and concern to members of the Subcommittee.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 4*, para. 55.

[2] Ibid., para. 61.

[3] Ibid., para. 81 (b).

[4] Ibid., para. 96.

[5] Ibid., para. 75 (b).

[6] Ibid., para. 50.

[7] Ibid., para. 34 (a).

[8] Ibid., para. 100 (c).

[9] Elected for a second term of two years.

Annex

List of participants

United Nations entities and programmes

United Nations Statistics Division

Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Drug Control Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

Specialized agencies and related organization

International Labour Organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

World Bank

International Monetary Fund

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Inter-agency bodies

ACC Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)

Other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations

Inter-American Development Bank

Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Statistical Office of the European Communities

World Tourism Organization

World Trade Organization

UNITED
NATIONS

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, 1993 (1993 SNA)

Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Convener of the Task Force on National Accounts)

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* E/CN.3/AC.1/1998/L.1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-ninth session (10-14 February 1997), the Statistical Commission:[1]

(a) Commended the milestones defined by the Task Force as an appropriate tool for monitoring progress in the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA), and agreed with the proposal to present updated milestone assessments of countries regularly, including an analysis of changes occurring in milestone assessments over time (see background document);

(b) Formulated its priorities regarding the proposed medium-term implementation targets (see para. 22 below);

(c) Endorsed the proposed support system of the Task Force (see sect. II. below);

(d) Decided that 1999 should be the implementation date for the United Nations data questionnaire for national accounts (see para. 23 below);

(e) Agreed with the proposed work programme on functional classifications (see para. 26 below);

(f) Asked the Task Force to make concrete proposals for a process of updating the 1993 SNA, taking into account the needs for a streamlined process and for adequate consultation (see sect. I below).

2. Section I of the present report will introduce detailed proposals for an updating procedure for the 1993 SNA; four types of amendment, of increasing substantive complexity, are distinguished. Section II provides an integrated presentation of the work programme of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) in support of the SNA implementation, highlighting recent accomplishments and reviewing proposed priority areas for action. In a separate background document, prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division in cooperation with the regional commissions, an updated country-by-country milestone assessment and a brief analysis are presented.

II. UPDATING THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, 1993

3. Real changes take place continuously within economies. Furthermore, during the implementation of the 1993 SNA, inconsistencies between the various parts of the system, as well as ambiguities, may appear. Updating the 1993 SNA is therefore a necessity in order to maintain its relevance. ISWGNA has discussed how to handle amendments to the 1993 SNA effectively, and has come to the conclusion that there is a need for both continuous updating of the 1993 SNA at shorter intervals and global revisions at larger intervals. Whereas global revisions are necessary to address issues that affect the system as a whole in a fundamental way, continuous updating will allow the SNA to incorporate new developments faster, and also provides a way to introduce changes in an incremental manner. The procedures described below focus on that continuous updating process.

4. Unless significant new economic developments have taken place, issues of a controversial nature should not be reopened if a deliberate decision was taken during the course of the 1993 revision after substantial discussion within one of the expert groups or within ISWGNA. It will be the responsibility of the institutions that proposes to reopen such debates to show that such decisive developments have actually occurred.

5. In order for the updating process to be efficient and timely, it is suggested that the Statistical Commission delegate to ISWGNA the responsibility to decide on SNA amendments. In order for the process to be broadly based ISWGNA will be assisted by a panel of experts. Effective use of modern means of communication (E-mail, Internet etc.) will ensure a broad consultative process and at the same time substitute for costly formal expert group meetings. ISWGNA will brief the Statistical Commission and its Working Group regularly on both adopted amendments and amendments under consideration.

A. Typology of amendments

6. In the present section, ISWGNA proposes to distinguish four types of amendment to the current SNA, ranked by increasing substantive complexity. Furthermore, an appropriate updating procedure for each type is suggested (see also table 1). Publication methods for approved amendments are also briefly discussed.

7. In principle, anybody may initiate the review process by proposing an amendment; however, individual national accountants and/or country offices are strongly encouraged to discuss and pre-screen proposed amendments by using such mechanisms as appropriate regional expert groups to the extent possible. ISWGNA will then receive, review and categorize proposals and start the updating process.

1. Editorial amendments

8. Editorial amendments refer to wording errors, apparent contradictions or translation errors in the non-English versions etc. Their main characteristic is that their correction will affect neither concepts nor the structure of the system and the tables therein. ISWGNA will discuss and decide on the final version, which will be published as an errata sheet.

2. Clarification beyond dispute

9. This type of amendment would arise when a new economic situation has emerged, or a situation that was negligible when the 1993 SNA was designed but has since grown considerably in importance.

10. ISWGNA will provide explanations, as needed, in order to arrive at unambiguous interpretations of existing SNA rules. It is important in that context to establish clearly that there is no conceptual issue concealed within the clarification.

3. Interpretation

11. As under "Clarification beyond dispute", new economic situations may have emerged. However, their treatment in national accounts may not be clear. In such situations, various solutions on how to treat the phenomenon in question in national accounting may be put forward, indicating that there seems to be room for different interpretations of 1993 SNA rules.

12. In that case, ISWGNA, assisted by the panel of experts, will draft a preliminary text that will be sent to working parties and regional panels of experts. ISWGNA will then make the final decision on the appropriate interpretation.

4. Change

13. Due to changes in the macroeconomic environment, some of the basic concepts in the 1993 SNA may become irrelevant and may even result in figures that might mislead users. In that case, relevant parts of the SNA text will have to be substantially rewritten to reflect those changes.

14. As under "Interpretation", ISWGNA, in close consultation with the panel of experts, will prepare a text that will be disseminated widely, including to all national statistical agencies. If a broad consensus emerges from that process of consultation, ISWGNA will decide on a change in the SNA concepts and rules.

B. Publishing amendments

15. Once amendments have been agreed to, an official booklet detailing the changes (i.e., the SNA paragraphs affected) and providing a brief explanatory text will be published in all official United Nations languages and disseminated widely. ISWGNA recommends that the text of such amendments be posted on the Internet, preferably the complete revised SNA text. The newsletter SNA News and Notes will be used to announce amendments. Reprints of the integral SNA text and a reissuance of the SNA CD-ROM will be added, as resources permit.

16. Booklets of less than 100 pages published at intervals no shorter than two years (according to amendments actually approved) may be accommodated within the United Nations Statistics Division publication budget. For other costs related to the updating process, such as the organization of expert group meetings, funding will be sought from ISWGNA members.

III. INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF WORK PROGRAMMES IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION

17. Tables 2 and 3 provide an integrated presentation of the work programme of ISWGNA members in support of SNA implementation in the standard format used in previous ISWGNA reports: table 2 contains a complete enumeration of manuals and other support materials; table 3 lists meetings and research activities held

since the eighteenth session of the Working Group (April 1996-October 1997) and planned for the near future. Some highlights are set out below.

18. With regard to the SNA translations, it is expected that by February 1998 all language versions of the 1993 SNA will have been published. In addition to the printed 1993 SNA, the CD-ROM produced by the United Nations Statistics Division has been widely disseminated.

19. The two annual issues of SNA News and Notes are now translated into Spanish, French and Russian, and approximately 4,000 copies are distributed worldwide. SNA News and Notes has become a well-known forum for conceptual debate and exchange of experience; it is also posted on the Internet, offering an e-mail address to facilitate dialogue among national accountants and with users.[2]

20. In terms of handbooks and other support material, the United Nations Statistics Division published a handbook on the use of the system of national accounts in economies in transition. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will issue a manual on monetary and financial statistics by December 1997, and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) will publish a handbook on quarterly accounts. The Statistics Division will cooperate with Johns Hopkins University to prepare a handbook on non-profit institutions.

21. Regional workshops, which in the initial phase of SNA implementation tended to generally introduce the 1993 SNA, are now becoming more topic-oriented, reflecting regional priorities. Three examples are a workshop on informal sector statistics (12-16 May 1997) jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Statistics Division and the International Labour Organization; an Economic Commission for Africa regional seminar on public sector accounts (27-31 October 1997); and a course hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable and human development concepts, macroeconomic modelling, environmental accounts and systems of social indicators, consistent with the recommendations of the 1993 SNA. In addition to those specialized events, an increasing number of statistical training institutes around the world are now offering regular courses on the 1993 SNA.

22. All agencies have launched technical cooperation activities to support SNA implementation at the country level. In response to the priorities expressed by the Statistical Commission, countries who currently have a weak national accounts infrastructure are being particularly targeted. For instance, the United Nations Statistics Division is promoting subregional cooperation in selected country groups by supporting technical cooperation programmes in the Caribbean together with the Caribbean Community; in West Africa together with the British Overseas Development Agency and the French national statistical office; and in Portuguese-speaking African countries together with the Portuguese statistical office and Eurostat.

23. With regard to international data collection and publication according to the 1993 SNA guidelines, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is preparing a glossary of SNA terms for its annual publication. The glossary will greatly facilitate the work of the United

Nations Statistics Division on the booklet of instructions and definitions and definitions that will accompany the Division's new national accounts questionnaire, to be implemented in 1999.

24. ISWGA has also conducted a major review of its research agenda, drawing distinction between issues that have already been listed in the 1993 SNA and issues that emerged only later. A status report was printed in SNA News and Notes, No. 6 (July 1997). For instance, the work undertaken by Eurostat on financial intermediation services indirectly measured has matured to a point where that topic is a candidate to be included in forthcoming updates of the 1993 SNA.

25. Rapid development in financial markets has made the treatment of financial derivatives a prime candidate for an update in the 1993 SNA. Following the recommendations of an expert group on monetary and financial statistics, a concrete proposal has been put forward by IMF on how to amend the 1993 SNA in that regard (see background document).

26. Concerning the development of the classifications of expenditures by purpose, which in the 1993 SNA are referred to as functional classifications, a joint OECD/Eurostat/Economic Commission for Europe national accounts meeting held in June 1997 has reviewed drafts of all four classifications. Subsequently, the draft classification of outlays of producers by purpose prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division has been circulated worldwide for comments. A final draft of the classification of the functions of government (COFOG) prepared by OECD has also been circulated worldwide. The classification of individual consumption by purpose has been finalized by OECD. The classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households will be finalized by OECD at the same time as COFOG. In accordance with the decision of the Statistical Commission, the classifications will be circulated as technical material as they become available. A complete set of all functional classifications will be presented to the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session for approval and subsequent publication.

IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

27. The Working Group may wish to discuss the following points:

(a) Does the Working Group agree with the proposed process for updating the 1993 SNA?

(b) Does the Working Group agree with the elements of the proposed support system for SNA implementation?

Notes

[1] See Official records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 4 (E/1997/24), para. 46.

[2] World Wide Web site:
http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd
e-mail address:
sna@un.org

Table 1

Updating the 1993 SNA

Stage of handling	Editorial amendment	Clarification beyond dispute	Interpretation	Change
Proposal	ISWGNA reviews the proposed amendment and classifies it			
Preliminary drafting	ISWGNA	ISWGNA	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts
1st discussion			Working parties or regional panels of experts	Working parties or regional panels of experts
2nd discussion			Working parties or regional panels of experts	National statistical offices in all regions
Final drafting			ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts
Publication	Errata sheet	SNA News and Notes, then periodic booklet	SNA News and Notes, then periodic booklet	SNA news and notes, then periodic booklet

Table 2

Manuals, handbooks and supporting materials for SNA implementation prepared or being prepared by member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	Responsible ISWGNA member organization	Status	Date of publication/ issue
1. Guidebook to Statistics on the Hidden Economy	ECE	Published	1992
2. Balance of Payments Manual	IMF	Published	September 1993
3. Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting	UNSD	Published	December 1993
4. Balance of Payments Compilation Guide	IMF	Published	December 1994
5. "An approach to presenting the 1993 SNA, with an operational application"	ESCWA	Published	December 1994
6. Manual on the 1993 SNA compared to the 1968 SNA	ESCWA	Published	December 1994
7. Environmental Accounting: An Operational Perspective. DESIPA Working Paper No. 1	UNSD	Published	1994
8. Selected methodological papers on the European Comparison Programme (ECP) from group II workshop	OECD	Published	1995
9. Integrated Satellite Accounting, Socio-economic Concerns and Modelling. DESIPA Working Paper No. 10	UNSD	Published	1995
10. A Systems Approach to National Accounts Compilation: UNSD's Experiences in Implementing the SNA. DESIPA Working Paper No. 9	UNSD	Published	1995
11. Balance of Payments Textbook	IMF	Published	1995
12. Handbook on Regional Accounts	Eurostat		
Vol. 1. Gross Value Added and Consumption of Fixed Capital by Activity		Published in nine languages	1995
Vol. 2. Household Accounts		Published in eight languages (Greek in preparation)	1996
Vol. 3. Government Accounts		In preparation	1998
13. Handbook on Methods Used by OECD Member Countries to Measure Value Added in Service Activities at Constant Prices	OECD	Published	February 1996
14. Quarterly National Accounts: Sources and Methods Used by OECD Member Countries	OECD	Published	May 1996

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	Responsible ISWGNA member organization	Status	Date of publication/ issue
15. CD-ROM version of the 1993 SNA	UNSD	Published	May 1996
16. Revision of the Arabic translation of the 1993 SNA	ESCWA/UNSD	Published	June 1996
17. Revision of the Chinese translation of the 1993 SNA	UNSD	Published	September 1996
18. ESA 1995 (official languages)	Eurostat	Published	October 1996
19. CD-ROM version of ESA 1995 (11 official languages)	Eurostat	Published	November 1996
20. Handbook on Inflation Accounting	OECD	Published	November 1996
21. Handbook on SNA for Transition Economies	UNSD	Published	May 1997
22. Revision of the French translation of the 1993 SNA, in cooperation with INSEE	Eurostat	Submitted to the United Nations for printing	October 1997
23. Revision of the Spanish translation of the 1993 SNA, in cooperation with INE and UNSD	ECLAC	Completed by INE and ECLAC; submitted to the United Nations for typesetting and printing	December 1997
24. Revision of the Russian translation of the 1993 SNA	IMF	Completed in October 1995 and sent for review to Goskomstat and CIS Statistical Committee; to be submitted to the United Nations for printing	Early 1998
25. Manual on monetary and financial statistics	IMF	Draft discussed by Expert Group in November 1996; submitted for publication	December 1997
26. Handbook on quarterly accounts	Eurostat	Discussed during 1997	End-1997
27. Technical report: a systems approach to national accounts compilation	UNSD	Submitted for publication end-1997	1998
28. Handbook on input-output	UNSD	Submitted for publication October 1997	1998
29. Revision of COICOP	OECD	Final draft circulated for comments in early 1996; discussed at UNECE/OECD/ Eurostat meeting on National Accounts 1997	1998
30. Revision of COFOG	OECD	Complete draft will be circulated in November 1997	1998
31. Revision of COPNI	OECD	Draft circulated in November 1996; will be finalized together with COFOG	1998

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	Responsible ISWGNA member organization	Status	Date of publication/ issue
32. Further development of COPP	UNSD	Draft circulated in September 1997	1998
33. Development of a revised international questionnaire based on the 1993 SNA	Eurostat, OECD and UNSD	Ongoing	
34. Handbook on the links between SNA and business accounting standards	UNSD	Submitted for publication in December 1997	1998
35. Technical report on household satellite accounts	UNSD	Submitted for publication in December 1997	1998
36. Compendium on uses of SNA and satellite accounts	UNSD	To be discussed at an expert group meeting in June 1998	1999
37. Handbook on the non-profit institutions, in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University	UNSd	Work to start 1998	2000
38. Manual on Government Financial Statistics: revision of the 1986 Manual	IMF	Annotated outline circulated for comments in September 1996; work to be done in 1997-1998	

List of acronyms used in the table

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COFOG	Classification of the functions of the Government
COICOP	Classification of individual consumption by purpose
COPP	Classification of producers by purpose
COPNI	Classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households
DESIPA	Former Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEA	European Economic Area
ESA	European System of Integrated Economic Accounts
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FISIM	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured
GDP	Gross domestic product
GNP	Gross national product
Goskomstat	State Committee on Statistics (Russian Federation)
IARIW	International Association for Research in Income and Wealth
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (Spain)
INSEE	Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (France)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACS	Pre-accession countries
TES	Training of European statisticians
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

Table 3

Summary of SNA-related activities of member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
	A. International organizations	
1. Eurostat	(a) Training courses on national accounts statistics in practice (14-25 October 1996 and 26 May-6 June 1997)	(a) Examination of the allocation of FISIM in the revised ESA (1995-1997)
	(b) Series of meetings of the Eurostat Directorate on Economic and Monetary Statistics	(b) Examination of methodologies and country practices to produce "green national accounting"
	(c) Training of European statisticians in regional accounts (13-15 October 1997)	(c) Proposal of a work programme on the exhaustiveness of national accounts (1995-1998)
	(d) Joint Eurostat/OECD/ECE meetings on national accounts (Geneva, 30 April-3 May 1996; Paris, 3-6 June 1997 and 22-25 September 1998)	(d) Examination of methods used to compile accounts of member States as part of implementing the GNP Directive (1994-1998)
	(e) TES course on ESA 1995, sector accounts (Luxembourg, 17-19 November 1997)	(e) Set-up of a programme measuring the progress made in implementing ESA 1995 throughout Europe (EU, EEA and PACs) (ongoing)

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
	(f) Convening of a task force on the price and volume measurement in the revised ESA (October 1996)	(f) Continued research on consumer subsidies (1997)
	(g) Convening of a task force on intangible assets in the revised ESA (July 1997)	(g) Continued examination on the revision of COICOP/COFOG
		(h) Cooperation with pre-accession countries on the implementation of ESA 1995 and quality measurement of national accounts estimates (ongoing)
		(i) Work programme entitled "Regional GDP figures for candidate countries"
		(j) Set-up of a programme on price and volume measurement in the revised ESA (1997)
2. IMF	(a) National Accounts course on concepts and practical implementation of the 1993 SNA (annual: second course, November-December 1996; third course, 1997 at the Joint Vienna Institute)	(a) Harmonization of the IMF statistical systems with the System of National Accounts 1993. Study prepared for 1994 General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth
	(b) Macroeconomic statistics for users: course for countries in transition on links between national accounts and balance-of-payments, government finance and monetary statistics (annual: four-week duration)	(b) Other studies on technical and conceptual issues, including implications for improving national accounts along areas of technical work being carried out on producer and consumer prices

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
	(c) Regular courses on balance-of-payments, government finance and monetary statistics that include sections on national accounts and the links between those specialized statistical systems and national accounts	(c) Study on relationships between measurement of FISIM and weighted money measures
3. OECD	(a) Joint OECD/ECE/Eurostat meetings on national accounts (Geneva, 30 April-3 May 1996; Paris, 3-6 June 1997; and 22-25 September 1998)	(a) Research project on the evaluation of household production within a national accounting framework, which would include drawing up recommendations for standard classifications and accounts (1995-1996)
	(b) Joint OECD/ECE meeting of CIS national accounts experts (Geneva, 20-24 October 1997)	(b) Continued research to elaborate possible methodologies for treating effects of environmental depletion and degradation within the framework of the 1993 SNA
	(c) Joint OECD/ESCAP meeting on national accounts (Bangkok, 4-8 May 1998)	
	(d) Capital stock conference (second meeting of the "Canberra Group"; Paris, 24-28 September 1998)	
	(e) OECD national accounts training courses for CIS countries (Paris, December 1996 and March 1997)	

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
4. UNSD	(a) Expert group meeting on links between business and national accounts (New York, 18-22 August 1997)	(a) Links between business and national accounts
	(b) Expert group meetings on international economic and social classifications (New York, 24-26 June 1996; 1-3 December 1997)	(b) Ongoing research work on household satellite accounting, including human resources accounting
	(c) Expert group meeting on household satellite accounting (New York, 6-10 October 1997)	(c) Joint UNSD/Eurostat study on the development of a conceptual framework for economic and social classifications, to be presented at the second meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications (New York, June 1996)
	(d) UNSD/ECA workshop on statistics on services in the informal sector for African countries (Addis Ababa, 17-21 June 1996)	(d) Work on revision and further development of COPP
	(e) UNSD/ESCAP/ILO workshop on statistics on the informal sector (Bangkok, 12-16 May 1997)	(e) Development of national accounts compilation methodologies with computer support
	(f) Expert group meeting on uses of national accounts (New York, June 1998)	(f) Study of uses of national accounts
		(g) Joint project with Johns Hopkins University to study non-profit institutions

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
5. World Bank	(a) Seminar on problems in the countries of the former USSR in moving to the 1993 SNA (Washington, D.C., November 1997) (b) Course for country economists on national accounts and associated projection and data consistency models, Washington, D.C. (c) Special programme for State Planning Commission of China on national accounts and related issues (May 1996) (d) Joint World Bank/UNSD seminar on integrated environmental and economic accounting (Jakarta, September 1996) (e) Joint World Bank/UNSD seminar on the implementation of the new SNA in South Africa (November 1996)	(a) Continued support for the ICP initiative (b) Preparation of training manual for use within the World Bank on the integration of environmental concerns with the SNA (c) Review of macro-gaps associated with activities of the informal and hidden sectors of the economy (d) Distribution of GNP/GDP by households and measurement of poverty

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
	B. Regional commissions	
6. ECA	(a) Subregional workshop on 1993 SNA implementation for northern African countries (planned by the ECA multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group under the United Nations regular programme for technical cooperation, Tangier, 14-18 October 1996) (b) Workshop on 1993 SNA implementation for French-speaking African countries (Addis Ababa, 14-18 October 1996) (c) Workshop on compilation of public sector accounts in the framework of the 1993 SNA (bilingual, 27-31 October 1997)	
7. ECE	(a) Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD meetings on national accounts (Geneva, 30 April-3 May 1996; Paris, 3-6 June 1997 and 22-25 September 1998) (b) Joint OECD/ECE meeting of national accounts experts from CIS countries (Geneva, 20-24 October 1997)	(a) Project on capital stock for transition economies case studies during 1998 examining methods currently used; develop improved methods of estimation (b) Continued support for the European Comparison Project within the ICP project of the United Nations (c) Organizing a session on the specific conceptual and practical accounting problems of countries in transition at the Conference of IARIW (Norway, 18-24 August 1996 and Cambridge, United Kingdom, August 1998)

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
8. ECLAC	(a) Working group meeting on standards for the valuation of the implementation of the 1993 SNA in countries (Santiago, May 1997)	(a) Country surveys on sources of basic statistics and national accounts (1995)
	(b) Latin American seminar on national accounts (Centro de Estudios Monetarios Centroamericanos, sponsored by the Government of Argentina; Buenos Aires, 20-24 October 1997)	(b) Second survey on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (September-October 1996)
	(c) Refresher course on sustainable and human development concepts, macroeconomic modelling, environmental accounts and systems of social indicators, consistent with the 1993 SNA, Institute of Social Studies of the Netherlands/ECLAC (Santiago, 1-13 December 1997)	(c) Third survey on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (August-September 1997)
	(d) Training workshops on introduction to the 1993 SNA (Panama, 30 September-1 November 1996)	
9. ESCAP	(a) Workshops to review ICP data inputs (Beijing, 16-20 June 1997)	(a) Continued support for the International Comparison Programme, Phase VI, in the Asia and Pacific region, for reference year 1999, in cooperation with the World Bank and OECD

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, ad hoc and programmed courses in national accounts and related subjects, and training materials for use in such activities	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems in implementing the 1993 SNA
	(b) ESCAP/UNSD/ILO workshop on Statistics on the Informal Sector, (Bangkok, 12-16 May 1997)	
	(c) Subregional workshop on SNA, (Jakarta, 12 days in March 1998)	
	(d) ESCAP/OECD meeting on national accounts: the 1993 SNA five years on (Bangkok, 4-8 May 1998)	
	(e) Subregional workshop on the SNA (Beijing, 12 days in October 1998)	
10. ESCWA	National training courses on concepts and data requirements of the 1993 SNA (Egypt, September 1996; Syrian Arab Republic, July 1996)	

Note: For the meaning of acronyms used in the table, see list at foot of table 2.